



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

22
Volume 21, No. 2

345 KING'S HIGHWAY EAST

MAY 1979

SPRING MEETING FEATURES "SAMUEL SLOAN, ARCHITECT IN HADDONFIELD"

Ms. Melinda McGough will take the members of our Society on an historic Victorian architectural experience by presenting three houses in Haddonfield designed by Samuel Sloan. She will discuss their unique Victorian "Gingerbread" designs, and her talk will be interspersed with colored slides and interesting facts about Samuel Sloan.

Ms. McGough, a native of Cherry Hill and presently a resident of Collingswood, discovered the uniqueness of the houses while studying for her Master's degree in Art History at Tulane University. The houses, published in a pattern book, fascinated her and presented an interesting architectural contrast. Her curiosity was so piqued that the subject of her thesis became the architectural history of the three houses. She started her research with the houses, and as she progressed, discovered the designs to be those of the famous Victorian architect, Samuel Sloan. "A lucky accident," she has stated, because this then gave her the opportunity to do further research into Samuel Sloan's life and works.

At present, she is the Assistant Registrar of the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and was formerly employed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Her presentation will describe the Sloan houses which have been maintained in their original condition and preserved as a segment of America's past. The three

MAY MEETING

Date
MAY 15, 1979

Time
8:00 P. M.

Place
Friends Meeting House Auditorium
Lake Street and Friends Avenue

Light Refreshments will be Served.

houses are here in Haddonfield: two are located in the 200 block of Washington Avenue and the other, on the corner of Warwick Road and Cottage Avenue. The three Samuel Sloan houses have been selected to be placed on the list of historic Victorian houses, and are to be so marked with plaques donated jointly by the Civic Association and the Historic Preservation Society.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Haddonfield has been officially described as being "a fully developed town of 2.5 square miles with 13,000 residents." It boasts a Historical Society which will celebrate it's 65th anniversary in November; a Historic Preservation Society and has established a Historic District within its boundaries. And yet... the Historical Society's membership is 552 individuals — at least 100 of whom live in other communities.

While it is undeniably true that history is not everyone's cup of tea, surely there are more than 450 people out of 13,000 who care enough about Haddonfield and its heritage to want to help preserve it.

How do we reach more of our friends and neighbors? How do we persuade them that membership in the Society would be a worthy investment?

The answers may come from you, our present members. Perhaps by sharing our thoughts we can develop a program which will strike a responsive chord in the community.

To do this we will have to ask more questions:

Why did you join the Society?

Did you find, after joining, that the Society lived up to your expectations?

What activities or programs do you like most?

What activities or programs would you like to see expanded or added?

Have you any suggestions as to how your membership in the Society could be made more meaningful?

Will you give some thought to these questions and send us your comments and suggestions. Address them to President's Corner, c/o Historical Society of Haddonfield, 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. Since we are particularly interested in ideas, there is no need to identify yourself.

Since any organization thrives on healthy growth and flourishes through an active, involved membership, the Society will very much appreciate having your thoughts as to how the Society can broaden its scope and expand its influence as a dynamic, positive influence in our community.

Patricia W. Lennon

A MAJOR MILESTONE AHEAD

In November the Society will celebrate 65 years of continuous effort to preserve for posterity elements of Haddonfield's heritage. Even in 1914, when the society was founded, many men and women were concerned about the careless handling of documents and old books; the inadvertent giving away of furniture, china, linens and glassware which reflected life of an earlier day and the casual treatment of homely utensils which were the tools of the homemaker, the farmer or the craftsmen.

Because of their foresight and energy, much that would have been lost, damaged or destroyed has been saved. Many valuable documents and records, as well as furniture, clothing and artifacts from an earlier time remain in Haddonfield today because there is a suitable "home" for them.

The Society's first vice president, Henry Watson, has organized a committee which will look into various ways in which this significant anniversary might be observed. "After all," said Watson, "65 years is a long time for an organization to have survived the remarkable changes of the last six decades."

NEWS AND NOTES

Historic Building Markers

One small, very early 18th century home, the Fortnightly and six outstanding examples of Victorian architecture — have been recently designated as historic buildings. A marker, paid for by the Civic Association and the Historic Preservation Society, is to be placed on each of the eight buildings.

House Dedication and Open House

The Whitman-Stafford Committee sent a cordial invitation to Society members to attend the dedication of the Stafford-Whitman House on May 19th at 10:00 a.m.; and later in the month, May 31st, to

attend a Walt Whitman birthday meeting and Open House at 7:00 p.m.

Society May Host New Jersey League

The Society has been asked informally if it would consider being host to the League of New Jersey Historical Societies for its meeting in March 1980. A committee is gathering information as to how extensive and how expensive such an undertaking may be. It expects to have a report ready before the June picnic meeting.

BOXWOOD AND ROSES — AT THE VILLAGE FAIR

To those members of the Woman's Committee who helped organize the first Flea Market in 1962, it doesn't seem possible that 17 years have elapsed!

The Flea Market concept gave way to Historic Village Fair: morning and afternoon auctions were introduced; a gourmet luncheon was served; and the Clothes Line Art Show was supplemented by demonstrations of such crafts as tinsmithing, wood turning, scrimshaw, rug braiding, toile painting and related old-time crafts.

Ruffled colonial caps and crisp red and white aprons immediately identified Fair workers.

Never static, this year's Historic Village Fair — to be held Saturday, June 2, beginning at 10:00 a.m. — will again introduce changes. The striped aprons will give way to bold yellows and blues; White Elephants will be more accurately labeled "Garage Sale;" and the luncheon will be a much simpler, but equally delicious, sandwich-salad-dessert-and beverage combination. There will be a special luncheon just for children.

Planned around the theme, "Boxwood and Roses," the 17th annual Historic Village Fair will be colorful and will offer the usual marvelous assortment of wares—from antique jewelry and baked goods, to books and attic treasures, to crafts, commemoratives and the auctions — to tempt Fair visitors.

The Village Fair has always relied on Society members and their friends for most of the wares sold, particularly at the auctions, the Garage Sale, the books and jewelry tables, as well as for baked goods, casseroles or other home-made culinary specialties. As the days become warmer, members of the Woman's Committee will be working at *Greenfield Hall* or the garage each morning two weeks before the Fair from 10:00 a.m. to early afternoon. Donations may be left on any one of those days or on any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon between 2:00 and 4:00.

Most of the profit earned at the Village Fair is invested in the Society. In addition to presenting the Society with a generous check each year at the Candlelight Dinner, the Woman's Committee has given such welcome gifts as modernizing the kitchen, papering and painting the entrance hall and stair halls, repainting the front and rear parlors, purchasing and having installed wrought iron railings leading from the terrace and a number of smaller gifts, all chosen to make *Greenfield Hall* a safer, more comfortable building in which to work, study, hold meetings and entertain at teas or an Open House.

The Woman's Committee is the major contributor to:

THE RESTORATION OF THE SAMUEL MICKLE HOUSE

Work on the Samuel Mickle (Hip Roof) House would not be as far along as it is were it not for the handsome sums given by the Woman's Committee.

The completion of the work might not yet be in sight were it not for the persistence of that Committee.

A contract has been signed with Louis H. Goettelmann, A.I.A., F.I.A.L., and former president of the Society, to draw up detailed plans and specifications for completing the interior restoration. A committee has been formed and has met to discuss with Lou the many purposes the building is to serve, to establish target dates for completion of the various elements and to determine the most economical way to get the work done in a

manner compatible with the building's historic designation.

It is quite possible that part of the work can be done by Society members with spare planning and willing hands to lend. In fact, some committee members entertained visions of gatherings not unlike the old-time barn raisings with their atmosphere of neighborliness in working together to get a necessary job done.

As plans become more concrete, the Committee will keep all Society members fully informed.

CHANGES IN THE LIBRARY

For a number of years, both before the retirement from the American Philosophical Society's library and after, Gertrude Hess has given countless hours in establishing a library designed and maintained for the use of the student or the researcher. Under her direction much of the work of sifting, sorting, labeling, pasting, typing and shelving has been done by a group of volunteers who, like Gertrude, regularly set time aside for "library day."

Although Gertrude has planned to cut her schedule from two afternoons a week to one, she was reluctant to do so until she could be sure that the library hours would be maintained and that the high school or college students or other researchers who wanted to use the library's resources would be able to do so.

She found such a person in Patty Burns, who has volunteered to be the Tuesday librarian. A graduate of Connecticut College, with a degree in Art History, Patty is no stranger to delving into library sources to meet the demands of research. Through her family she developed a deep appreciation for the value of early design and its preservation. This interest was rekindled when the Burns family bought the Wood house on Kings High-

way. Patty has worked for the Elizabeth Haddon School library and is on the Board of Haddonfield Friends of the Library.

The Society is open two afternoons each week - Tuesday and Thursday, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., nine months of the year. (*Greenfield Hall* is closed in January, July and August). In addition to the librarian and the library aides, there should also be

HOSTESSES

It is really essential that *Greenfield Hall* be kept open on the days and hours scheduled. As a non-profit, tax-exempt organization the Society has an obligation to perform the educational services which qualify it for that status. A librarian cannot effectively fulfill her responsibilities in the library and at the same time, perform the functions of a hostess.

With warm weather having finally come to stay, hostesses report more and more visitors coming to *Greenfield Hall* - visitors not just from Haddonfield and adjacent communities, but from out of state as well.

A number of Society members are serving as hostess on one Tuesday or one Thursday afternoon each month, and several members have agreed to be "on call."

Since it is easy to forget a once-a-month date, a member of the Board has been asked to call the hostess a day or so in advance to remind her and, if necessary, to call an alternate.

Even on days when there are just a few visitors, the time passes quickly. There is so much to see and learn about *Greenfield Hall* and its contents. In the library the collections of original manuscripts and letters, the pamphlets and books are a source of endlessly fascinating reading. But perhaps the best feeling of all comes from the knowledge that in giving up part of an afternoon, the hostess is performing a valuable service for the Society.